

**DOCKET NO.:** MSFT-0561 (144166.1)  
**Application No.:** 09/717,588  
**Office Action Dated:** March 15, 2006

**PATENT**

### **REMARKS**

After entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16, 17, 33 and 36-44 are pending in the application. Claims 34 and 45 are canceled herein.

In the office action dated March 15, 2006, the examiner requires restriction to one of two claim groupings under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group I – Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16, 17, 33 and 36-44, drawn to two or more search providers transmitting information and conducting a search, classified in class 707, subclass 10; and

Group II – Claims 34 and 45, drawn to configuring user interface based on information regarding query definition forms, classified in class 707, subclass 102.

### **Election without Traverse**

Applicant elects Group I (claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16, 17, 33 and 36-44) for immediate prosecution, without traverse. Applicant's election is in no way an admission of the examiner's characterizations of the claims, and no representations are made by this election concerning the possible existence of multiple independent and/or distinct inventions among the claims of record. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the non-elected claims, as well as any other claims supported by the specification, in one or more related applications.

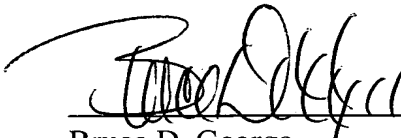
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### **CONCLUSION**

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that pending claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16, 17, 33 and 36-44 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the examiner issue an early notice of allowance. The examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney in the event that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce D. George", is written over a horizontal line.

Bruce D. George  
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Date: April 17, 2006

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